Message

From: "Shoren Brown, Trout Unlimited" ["Shoren Brown, Trout Unlimited" <sbrown@tu.org>]

Sent: 4/3/2012 4:46:29 PM

To: Stacie Craddock/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Bristol Bay in the News April 3, 2012

Attachments: see it online; Hotspot; Hotspot; Hotspot; Hotspot; Hotspot; www.SaveBristolBay.org; Click here to read more;

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There's continued national attention on Bristol Bay this week. Commercial fishermen from Alaska to Maine weighed in against Pebble Mine and sent a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson urging protection of Bristol Bay and its fisheries and natural resources. The 77 fishing groups and leaders, including Sig Hansen of the Deadliest Catch, the Maine Lobstermen's Association and the Southern Shrimp Alliance, represent more than 16,000 commercial fishermen from coast to coast and some of the most storied fisheries in the U.S.

Another letter to the editor in Colorado's Summit Daily compared mining in Summit County with Bristol Bay and mentioned efforts to restore mining damage on the Swan River. "Efforts will eventually restore and reconnect 17 miles of habitat along with 17.5 acres of riparian/wetland areas. The total project will take five to eight years and cost millions of dollars. Can you possibly imagine how long it would take to restore the Alaskan fisheries if even possible. And, if/when the Pebble fails, all of the habitat will be destroyed," wrote Corkie Ramey.

In Washington, letter writer Sharon Hart thanked Rep. Norm Dicks for his leadership on fisheries issues, including Bristol Bay. "I've been commercial fishing in Washington and Alaska for over 30 years, and I'm not alone. Fishermen, boat builders, gear suppliers, restaurateurs, freight movers and consumers from Forks to Tacoma should be glad Congressman Dicks is representing our district and the fight to keep Bristol Bay salmon sustainable, wild and abundant. I appreciate his support for working fishermen and his understanding of the connections between Washington and Alaska," Hart wrote in the Kitsap Sun.

A letter writer in the Juneau Empire supports Senate Bill 152, which would increase protection for Bristol Bay's fish bearing streams from toxic pollution. She writes, "Remember, Bristol Bay supplies over half of the wild red salmon on the world market. Pebble Mine would be the largest open pit mine in the world, yet it would only provide a small, short-term boom in jobs. In this vulnerable landscape, even a small error could mean disastrous consequences."

The Pebble Partnership held meetings in Soldotna and Homer to introduce their baseline environmental data. One response before the meetings came from Cook Inletkeeper Bob Shavelson, who said in a Homer News story: "But no amount of research can avoid the fact that they will destroy salmon resources forever if they go ahead with this project," he said. "If nothing else, they're documenting the incredible habitat and resources that will be destroyed by their project."

Lastly, several publications picked up stories about better handling practices of fish leading to higher quality and better prices in the Bristol Bay fishery. And, another story showed how younger fishermen are gaining access to crucial information on best practices through the Young Fisherman's Summit.

For more information, go to www.SaveBristolBay.org

Shoren Brown Bristol Bay Campaign Director

Tim Bristol
Trout Unlimited Alaska Director

Nation's Commercial Fishermen unite to protect Bristol Bay, Alaska

Sacramento Bee

Today Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay announced that 77 commercial fishing groups from Alaska to Maine have sent a letter to the Obama Administration urging it to protect Bristol Bay, its epic salmon runs and the commercial fishing jobs that rely on them... Click here to read more

Sig Hansen and 16,000 Commercial Fishermen to Stop Pebble Mine

The Real Alaska

Fishermen are notorious for disagreeing. So it is about damn time we agreed on one thing: saving our jobs, saving wild salmon and saving our heritage... Click here to read more

Nation's Commercial Fishermen Unite to protect Bristol Bay, Alaska

Marine Link

The Commercial Fisherman for Bristiol Bay organization has announced that 77 commercial fishing groups from Alaska to Maine have sent a letter to the Obama Administration urging it to protect Bristol Bay, its epic salmon runs and the commercial fishing jobs that rely on them... Click here to read more

Just say no to the Pebble Mine

Corkie Ramey, Frisco, CO

Summit Daily

Thank you Mr. Turner of Fairplay for bringing the atrocity of the Pebble Mine close to Bristol Bay to our attention. There are to major salmon rivers feeding into Bristol Bay. We can not risk loosing 40 percent of the world's sockeye salmon with the building of this mine... Click here to read more

Bravo to Dicks for fishery support

Sharon Hart, Port Hadlock, WA

Kitsap Sun

With the recent news that Rep. Norm Dicks will be retiring, I wanted to thank him for his leadership on an issue that's close to home. Not long ago, at a Congressional appropriations committee hearing, Rep. Dicks championed protection for Bristol Bay, Alaska and its salmon... Click here to read more

Prairie club hosts salmon presentation Monday

Telegraph Herald

It is only March and three fishing records have been set in the tri-state area...Members of the Prairie Rod and Gun Club and of Trout Unlimited are sponsoring a presentation on Alaska salmon... Click here to read more (subscription required)

Yes on 152

Mariah Savoie

Juneau Empire

The Bristol Bay Fishery Reserve is one of the last undisturbed salmon ecosystems in the world. Senate Bill 152 would help to protect the delicate environment of Bristol Bay and, by extension, one of Alaska's most renewable resources — salmon fisheries... Click here to read more

Pebble holds meetings on environmental data

Homer News

Representatives with the Pebble Partnership hold two seminars this week on the project's 20,000-page Environmental Baseline Document... Click here to read more

State objections rise on EPA Bristol Bay watershed assessment

Margaret Bauman

The Cordova Times

As fishermen organize nationally to protect the Bristol Bay watershed from potential adverse affects from mining, the state of Alaska is blasting a federal watershed assessment that could justify prohibitions against mine wastes in the watershed... Click here to read more

Boosting quality of catch pays off for fishermen

Laine Welch

Anchorage Daily News, Capital City Weekly and seafoodsource.com

Fishermen in the world's largest salmon fishery at Bristol Bay are getting good grades for improving the quality of their salmon, and it's boosting their bottom line... Click here to read more

Fleet in flux: Young fishermen struggle to break into industry

Hannah Heimbuch The Bristol Bay Times

A few years ago, just out of high school and headed to UAF to study engineering, Timothy Nick wasn't sure he wanted to make fishing his business. He'd been setnetting with his father Victor since he was 15, and saw first-hand the weight of responsibility required of an owner and operator... Click here to read more

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